

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 BIB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /070 W

----- 001396

R 140948Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9228

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5114

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: SOVIET-ROMANIAN DIFFERENCES

REF: STATE 80904

1. SUMMARY. APRIL 10 CONVERSTATION WITH A ROMANIAN EMBOFF
SUPPORTS THE THESIS OF REFTTEL THAT SOVIET-ROMANIAN
DIFFERENCES ARE SHARPENING FAST. OUR INFORMANT, WHILE
NOTING FAMILIAR DIFFERENCES OVER THE EUROPEAN COMMUNIST
CONFERENCE, CSCE, AND CEMA POLICY, EMPHASIZED A FOURTH
THEME--THAT THE SOVIETS ARE PUSHING A SERIES OF
PROPOSALS TO TIGHTEN UP THE WARSAW PACT ORGANIZATION
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AND THE ROMANIANS ARE ISOLATED IN THEIR OPPOSITION

TO THEM. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO THE ROMANIAN, THE SOVIETS HAVE REVIVED AN IDEA WHICH HAS BEEN DORMANT SINCE THE MID-1950'S TO HAVE A WARSAW PACT PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS WHICH WOULD MEET AT SET AND FREQUENT INTERVALS. THE SOVIETS ALSO ALLEGEDLY WANT TO SET UP A WARSAW PACT SECRETARIAT A LA NATO WITH A STRONG SOVIET SECRETARY GENERAL, AND ARE ANXIOUS TO GIVE THE PACT A POLITICAL STAFF AND STRUCTURE CLOSELY RESEMBLING NATO. THE SOVIETS, ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMANT, ARE ALSO PRESSING FOR REGULAR PACT POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS. IN SUM, THE SOVIETS HAVE LAUNCHED A NEW DRIVE DIRECTED AT GREATER COORDINATION OF THE WARSAW PACT. OUR SOURCE SAYS THAT ROMANIA HAS OPPOSED AND HAS DRAGGED ITS FEET, BUT IN LIGHT OF THE LACK OF SUPPORT FROM OTHER PACT MEMBERS MAY HAVE TO ACCEPT SOME FORM OF COMPROMISE.

3. MOEOVER, SAYS THE ROMANIAN EMBOFF, THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN PLUMPING FOR A LARGE-SCALE CELEBRATION OF THE PACT'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY. HE FEELS THAT ROMANIA HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN HEADING OFF THIS INITIATIVE. HIS BELIEF IS THAT THERE WILL BE NO MAJOR CEREMONY IN WARSAW AROUND THE MAY 14 ANNIVERSARY. THERE MAY BE A PACT SUMMIT, BUT HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE DATE HAD NOT BEEN SET AND IT WOULD PROBABLY BE LATE IN THE YEAR. THE SOVIETS HAD WANTED COMMEMORATIVE COINS STRUCK TO CELEBRATE THE ANNIVERSARY; THE ROMANIANS DEMURRED, APPARENTLY SUCCESSFULLY.

4. OUR ROMANIAN CONTACT ALSO REPEATED, WITH NO PARTICULAR EMPHASIS, THE FAMILIAR SOVIET-ROMANIAN DIFFERENCES OVER THE EUROPEAN PARTY CONFERENCE, CSCE, AND CEMA. HE SAID THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD DEFINITELY BE HELD AFTER THE CSCE CONCLUSION, PROBABLY LATE THIS YEAR.

5. HE WAS QUICK TO ATTRIBUTE SUCH IDEOLOGICAL ALLUSIONS AS NOTED REFTEL TO THE SOVIET HAND AND SAID THEY WERE CLEARLY AIMED AT ROMANIA. HE FELT THAT FOLLOWING CSCE CONFIDENTIAL

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THE SOVIETS WOULD STEP UP STILL FURTHER THEIR EMPHASIS ON IDEOLOGICAL ORTHODOXY WITHIN THE PACT IN AN EFFORT TO WARD OFF THE EFFECT OF WESTERN EFFORTS TO HOLD MOSCOW TO ITS BASKET THREE COMMITMENTS.

6. COMMENT. WHILE OUR ROMANIAN CONTACT IS RARELY BASHFUL ABOUT NOTING SOVIET-ROMANIAN DIFFERENCES, THIS IS THE FARTHEST HE HAS GONE IN THE TWO YEARS WE HAVE BEEN DEALING

WITH HIM. WHILE PERHPAS OVERSTATED, HIS LINE SEEMS PLAUSIBLE,
AND WE ARE PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY THE SPECIFICS ON THE WARSAW
PACT, WHICH SEEM TO BE A NEW ELEMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, PARTY MEETINGS, BASKET III
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW05114
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750130-0087
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750454/aaaabyjj.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 80904
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <05 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET-ROMANIAN DIFFERENCES
TAGS: PFOR, WTO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006